

# HILBERT SERIES OF ALGEBRAS ASSOCIATED TO DIRECTED GRAPHS

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**ABSTRACT.** We compute the Hilbert series of some algebras associated to directed graphs and related to factorizations of noncommutative polynomials.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In [3] we introduced a new class of algebras  $A(\Gamma)$  associated to layered directed graphs  $\Gamma$ . These algebras arose as generalizations of the algebras  $Q_n$  (which are related to factorizations of noncommutative polynomials, see [2, 5, 9]), but the new class of algebras seems to be interesting by itself.

Various results have been proven for algebras  $A(\Gamma)$ . In [3] we constructed a linear basis in  $A(\Gamma)$ . In [7] we showed that algebras  $A(\Gamma)$  are defined by quadratic relations for a large class of directed graphs and proved that in this case they are Koszul algebras. It follows immediately that the dual algebras to  $A(\Gamma)$  are also Koszul and that their Hilbert series are related.

In this paper we continue to study algebras  $A(\Gamma)$ . In Section 2 we recall the definition of the algebra  $A(\Gamma)$  and the construction of a basis for  $A(\Gamma)$  given in [3]. In Section 3 we prove the main result of the paper, an expression for the Hilbert series,  $H(A(\Gamma), t)$  of the algebra  $A(\Gamma)$  corresponding to a layered graph  $\Gamma$  with a unique element  $*$  of level 0. In stating this we denote the level of  $v$  by  $|v|$  and write  $v > w$  to indicate that  $v$  and  $w$  are vertices of the directed graph  $\Gamma$  and that there is a directed path from  $v$  to  $w$ . Then we have:

$$H(A(\Gamma), t) = \frac{1-t}{1 + \sum_{v_1 > v_2 > \dots > v_\ell \geq *} (-1)^\ell t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1}}.$$

The proof uses matrices  $\zeta(t)$  and  $\zeta(t)^{-1}$  which generalize the zeta function and the Möbius function for partially ordered sets.

In Section 4 we specialize our results to the case of the Hasse graph of the lattice of subsets of a finite set, giving a derivation of the Hilbert series for the algebras  $Q_n$  that is shorter and more conceptual than that in [2]. In Section 5 we treat the case of the Hasse graph of the lattice of subspaces of a finite-dimensional vector space over a finite field. Finally, in Section 6, we define the complete layered graph  $\mathbf{C}[m_n, m_{n-1}, \dots, m_1, m_0]$  and compute the Hilbert series of  $A(\mathbf{C}[m_n, m_{n-1}, \dots, m_1, 1])$ .

During preparation of this paper Vladimir Retakh was partially supported by NSA.

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1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 05E05; 15A15; 16W30.

*Key words and phrases.* Hilbert series, directed graphs, quadratic algebras.

## 2. THE ALGEBRA $A(\Gamma)$

We begin by recalling the definition of the algebra  $A(\Gamma)$ . Let  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  be a **directed graph**. That is,  $V$  is a set (of vertices),  $E$  is a set (of edges), and  $\mathbf{t} : E \rightarrow V$  and  $\mathbf{h} : E \rightarrow V$  are functions. ( $\mathbf{t}(e)$  is the *tail* of  $e$  and  $\mathbf{h}(e)$  is the *head* of  $e$ .)

We say that  $\Gamma$  is **layered** if  $V = \cup_{i=0}^n V_i$ ,  $E = \cup_{i=1}^n E_i$ ,  $\mathbf{t} : E_i \rightarrow V_i$ ,  $\mathbf{h} : E_i \rightarrow V_{i-1}$ . If  $v \in V_i$  we will write  $|v| = i$ .

We will assume throughout the remainder of the paper that  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  is a layered graph with  $V = \cup_{i=0}^n V_i$ , that  $V_0 = \{*\}$ , and that, for every  $v \in V_+ = \cup_{i=1}^n V_i$ ,  $\{e \in E \mid \mathbf{t}(e) = v\} \neq \emptyset$ . For each  $v \in V_+$  fix, arbitrarily, some  $e_v \in E$  with  $\mathbf{t}(e_v) = v$ .

If  $v, w \in V$ , a **path** from  $v$  to  $w$  is a sequence of edges  $\pi = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$  with  $\mathbf{t}(e_1) = v$ ,  $\mathbf{h}(e_m) = w$  and  $\mathbf{t}(e_{i+1}) = \mathbf{h}(e_i)$  for  $1 \leq i < m$ . We write  $v = \mathbf{t}(\pi)$ ,  $w = \mathbf{h}(\pi)$ . We also write  $v > w$  if there is a path from  $v$  to  $w$ . Define  $P_\pi(\tau) = (\tau - e_1)(\tau - e_2) \dots (\tau - e_m) \in T(E)[\tau]$  and write

$$P_\pi(\tau) = \sum_{j=0}^n e(\pi, j) \tau^{m-j}.$$

Let  $\pi_v$  denote the path  $\{e_1, \dots, e_{|v|}\}$  from  $v$  to  $*$  with  $e_1 = e_v, e_{i+1} = e_{\mathbf{h}(e_i)}$  for  $1 \leq i < |v|$ , and  $\mathbf{h}(e_{|v|}) = *$ .

Recall that  $R$  is the ideal of  $T(E)$  generated by

$$\{e(\pi_1, k) - e(\pi_2, k) \mid \mathbf{t}(\pi_1) = \mathbf{t}(\pi_2), \mathbf{h}(\pi_1) = \mathbf{h}(\pi_2), 1 \leq k \leq l(\pi_1)\}.$$

The algebra  $A(\Gamma)$  is the quotient  $T(E)/R$ .

For  $v \in V_+$  and  $1 \leq k \leq |v|$  we define  $\hat{e}(v, k)$  to be the image in  $A(\Gamma)$  of the product  $e_1 \dots e_k$  in  $T(E)$  where  $\pi_v = \{e_1, \dots, e_{|v|}\}$ .

If  $(v, k), (u, l) \in V \times \mathbf{N}$  we say  $(v, k)$  **covers**  $(u, l)$  if  $v > u$  and  $k = |v| - |u|$ . In this case we write  $(v, k) \succ (u, l)$ . (In [3] we used different terminology and notation: if  $(v, l) \succ (u, l)$  we said  $(v, l)$  can be composed with  $(u, l)$  and wrote  $(v, l) \models (u, l)$ .)

The following theorem is proved in [3, Corollary 4.5].

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  be a layered graph,  $V = \cup_{i=0}^n V_i$ , and  $V_0 = \{*\}$  where  $*$  is the unique minimal vertex of  $\Gamma$ . Then*

$$\{\hat{e}(v_1, k_1) \dots \hat{e}(v_\ell, k_\ell) \mid l \geq 0, v_1, \dots, v_\ell \in V_+, 1 \leq k_i \leq |v_i|, (v_i, k_i) \not\succ (v_{i+1}, k_{i+1})\}$$

*is a basis for  $A(\Gamma)$ .*

## 3. THE HILBERT SERIES OF $A(\Gamma)$

Let  $h(t)$  denote the Hilbert series  $H(A(\Gamma), t)$ , where  $\Gamma$  is a layered graph with unique minimal element  $*$  of level 0. If  $X \subseteq A(\Gamma)$  is a set of homogeneous elements (so  $X = \cup_{i=0}^\infty X_i$  where  $X_i = X \cap A(\Gamma)_i$ ), denote the "graded cardinality"  $\sum_{i=0}^\infty |X_i|t^i$  of  $X$  by  $\|X\|$ . Let  $B$  denote the basis for  $A(\Gamma)$  described in Theorem 1 and, for  $v \in V_+$ , let  $B_v = \{\hat{e}(v_1, k_1) \dots \hat{e}(v_\ell, k_\ell) \in B \mid v_1 = v\}$ . Then  $B = \{1\} \cup \bigcup_{v \in V_+} B_v$ . Let  $h_v(t)$  denote the graded dimension of the subspace of  $A(\Gamma)$  spanned by  $B_v$ . Since  $B$  is linearly independent, we have  $\|B\| = h(t)$  and  $\|B_v\| = h_v(t)$ . Then

$$\|B\| = h(t) = 1 + \sum_{v \in V_+} h_v(t)$$

Let  $C_v = \bigcup_{k=1}^{|v|} \hat{e}(v, k)B$ . Then

$$\|C_v\| = (t + \dots + t^{|v|})h(t) = t \left( \frac{t^{|v|} - 1}{t - 1} \right) h(t).$$

Now  $C_v \supseteq B_v$ . Let  $D_v$  denote the compliment of  $B_v$  in  $C_v$ . Then

$$D_v = \{\hat{e}(v, k)\hat{e}(v_1, k_1) \dots \hat{e}(v_\ell, k_{\ell}) \mid 1 \leq k \leq |v|,$$

$$(v, k) > (v_1, k_1), \hat{e}(v_1, k_1) \dots \hat{e}(v_\ell, k_\ell) \in B\}$$

and so

$$D_v = \bigcup_{v > v_1 > * \atop *} \hat{e}(v, |v| - |v_1|)B_{v_1}.$$

Then  $\|D_v\| = \sum_{v > v_1 > *} t^{|v|-|v_1|}h_{v_1}(t)$  and so

$$h_v(t) = \|B_v\| = \|C_v\| - \|D_v\| = t \left( \frac{t^{|v|} - 1}{t - 1} \right) h(t) - \sum_{v > w > *} t^{|v|-|w|}h_w(t).$$

This equation may be written in matrix form. Arrange the elements of  $V$  in nonincreasing order and index the elements of vectors and matrices by this ordered set. Let  $\mathbf{h}(t)$  denote the column vector with entry  $h_v(t)$  in the  $v$ -position (where we set  $h_*(t) = 1$ ), let  $\mathbf{u}$  denote the vector with  $t^{|v|}$  in the  $v$ -position,  $\mathbf{e}_*$  denote the vector with  $\delta_{*v}$  in the  $v$ -position, let  $\mathbf{1}$  denote the column vector all of whose entries are 1, and let  $\zeta(t)$  denote the matrix with entries  $\zeta_{v,w}(t)$  for  $v, w \in V$  where  $\zeta_{v,w}(t) = t^{|v|-|w|}$  if  $v \geq w$  and 0 otherwise. Note that

$$\zeta(t)\mathbf{e}_* = \mathbf{u}.$$

Then we have

$$\zeta(t)(\mathbf{h}(t) - \mathbf{e}_*) = \frac{t}{t-1}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{1})h(t)$$

and so

$$\mathbf{h}(t) - \mathbf{e}_* = \frac{t}{t-1}(\mathbf{u} - \zeta(t)^{-1}\mathbf{1})h(t).$$

Then

$$\mathbf{1}^T(\mathbf{h}(t) - \mathbf{e}_*) = \frac{t}{t-1}(\mathbf{1}^T\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{1}^T\zeta(t)^{-1}\mathbf{1})h(t)$$

or

$$h(t) - 1 = \frac{t}{t-1}(1 - \mathbf{1}^T\zeta(t)^{-1}\mathbf{1})h(t).$$

Consequently, we have

**Lemma 1.**

$$\frac{1-t}{h(t)} = 1 - t\mathbf{1}^T\zeta(t)^{-1}\mathbf{1}.$$

Now  $N(t) = \zeta(t) - I$  is a strictly upper triangular matrix and so  $\zeta(t)$  is invertible. In fact,  $\zeta(t)^{-1} = I - N(t) + N(t)^2 - \dots$  and so the  $(v, w)$ -entry of  $\zeta(t)^{-1}$  is

$$\sum_{v=v_1 > \dots > v_l = w \geq *} (-1)^{l+1}t^{|v|-|w|}.$$

Combining this remark with Lemma 1 we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $\Gamma$  be a layered graph with unique minimal element  $*$  of level 0 and  $h(t)$  denote the Hilbert series of  $A(\Gamma)$ . Then*

$$\frac{1-t}{h(t)} = 1 + \sum_{v_1 > v_2 > \dots > v_\ell \geq *} (-1)^\ell t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1}.$$

We remark that the matrices  $\zeta(1)$  and  $\zeta(1)^{-1}$  are well-known as the zeta-matrix and the Möbius-matrix of  $V$  (cf. [8]).

In the remaining sections of this paper we will use Theorem 2 to compute the Hilbert series of the algebras  $A(\Gamma)$  associated with certain layered graphs.

#### 4. THE HILBERT SERIES OF THE ALGEBRA ASSOCIATED WITH THE HASSE GRAPH OF THE LATTICE OF SUBSETS OF $\{1, \dots, n\}$

Let  $\Gamma_n$  denote the Hasse graph of the lattice of all subsets of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . Thus the vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  are subsets of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , the order relation  $>$  is set inclusion  $\supset$ , the level  $|v|$  of a set  $v$  is its cardinality, and the unique minimal vertex  $*$  is the empty set  $\emptyset$ . Then the algebra  $A(\Gamma_n)$  is the algebra  $Q_n$  defined in [5]. In this section we will prove the following theorem (from [2]). The present proof is much shorter and more conceptual than that in [2].

**Theorem 3.**

$$H(Q_n, t) = \frac{1-t}{1-t(2-t)^n}.$$

Our computations depend on the following lemma and corollary.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $w$  be a finite set. Then*

$$\sum_{w \supset w_2 \supset \dots \supset w_\ell = \emptyset} (-1)^\ell = (-1)^{|w|+1}.$$

*Proof.* If  $|w| = 1$ , both sides are  $+1$ . Assume the result holds for all sets of cardinality  $< |w|$ . Then

$$\sum_{w \supset w_2 \supset \dots \supset w_\ell = \emptyset} (-1)^\ell = \sum_{w \supset w_2 \supseteq \emptyset} \sum_{w_2 \supset \dots \supset w_\ell = \emptyset} (-1)^\ell$$

and, by the induction assumption, this is equal to

$$\sum_{w \supset w_2 \supseteq \emptyset} (-1)^{|w_2|}.$$

Since

$$\sum_{w \supset w_2 \supseteq \emptyset} (-1)^{|w_2|} = \sum_{w \supseteq w_2 \supseteq \emptyset} (-1)^{|w_2|} - \sum_{w \supseteq w_2 \supsetneq \emptyset} (-1)^{|w_2|} = 0 + (-1)^{|w|+1} = (-1)^{|w|+1}$$

the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $v \supseteq w$  be finite sets. Then*

$$\sum_{v = v_1 \supset v_2 \supset \dots \supset v_\ell = w} (-1)^\ell = (-1)^{|v| - |w| + 1}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $w'$  denote the complement of  $w$  in  $v$ . Sets  $u$  satisfying  $v \subseteq u \subseteq w$  are in one-to-one correspondence with subsets of  $w'$  via the map  $u \mapsto u \cap w'$ . Thus

$$\sum_{v=v_1 \supset v_2 \supset \dots \supset v_\ell = w} (-1)^\ell = \sum_{w'=v'_1 \supset \dots \supset v'_\ell = \emptyset} (-1)^\ell.$$

By the lemma, this is  $(-1)^{|w'|+1}$ , giving the result.  $\square$

To prove the theorem we observe that

$$\sum_{\substack{v_1 \supset v_2 \supset \dots \supset v_\ell \supseteq \emptyset \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1} = \sum_{\{1, \dots, n\} \supseteq v_1 \supseteq \emptyset} t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1} \sum_{v_1 \supset \dots \supset v_\ell \supseteq \emptyset} (-1)^\ell.$$

By Corollary 1, this is

$$\sum_{\{1, \dots, n\} \supseteq v_1 \supseteq v_\ell \supseteq \emptyset} t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1} (-1)^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1}.$$

Let  $u$  denote the compliment of  $v_\ell$  in  $v_1$  and  $u'$  denote the complement of  $u$  in  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . Then the coefficient of  $t^{k+1}$  in the above expression is the number of ways of choosing a  $k$ -element subset  $u \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$  times the number of ways of choosing a subset  $v \subseteq u'$ . This is  $\binom{n}{k} 2^{n-k}$ . Thus

$$\sum_{\substack{v_1 \supset v_2 \supset \dots \supset v_\ell \supseteq \emptyset \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} 2^{n-k} (-t)^{k+1} = -t(2-t)^k.$$

In view of Theorem 2, this completes the proof of the theorem.

## 5. THE HILBERT SERIES OF ALGEBRAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HASSE GRAPH OF THE LATTICE OF SUBSPACES OF A FINITE-DIMENSIONAL VECTOR SPACE OVER A FINITE FIELD

We will denote by  $\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{q})$  the Hasse graph of the lattice of subspaces of an  $n$ -dimensional space over the field  $\mathbf{F}_q$  of  $q$  elements. Thus the vertices of  $\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{q})$  are subspaces of  $\mathbf{F}_q^n$ , the order relation  $>$  is inclusion of subspaces  $\supset$ , the level  $|U|$  of a subspace  $U$  is its dimension, and the unique minimal vertex  $*$  is the zero subspace  $(0)$ .

### Theorem 4.

$$\frac{1-t}{H(A(\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{q})), t)} = 1 - t \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m}_q (1-t)(1-tq)\dots(1-tq^{n-m-1}).$$

Our proof depends on the following lemma and corollary.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $U$  be a finite-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbf{F}_q$ . Then*

$$\sum_{\substack{U=U_1 \supset U_2 \supset \dots \supset U_\ell=(0) \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell = (-1)^{|U|+1} q^{\binom{|U|}{2}}.$$

*Proof.* If  $|U| = 0$ , the sum occurring in the lemma has a single term corresponding to  $\ell = 1, U = U_1 = (0)$ . Then both sides of the expression in the lemma are equal to  $-1$ . Now let  $U$  be a finite-dimensional vector space and assume the result holds for all spaces of dimension less than  $|U|$ . Then

$$\sum_{\substack{U=U_1 \supset U_2 \supset \cdots \supset U_\ell = (0) \\ l \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell = \sum_{U=U_1 \supset U_2} \sum_{\substack{U_2 \supset \cdots \supset U_\ell = (0) \\ l \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell.$$

By the induction assumption, this is equal to

$$= \sum_{U \supset U_2} (-1)^{|U_2|} q^{\binom{|U_2|}{2}}.$$

It is well-known that the number of  $m$ -dimensional subspaces of the space  $U$  is given by the  $q$ -binomial coefficient  $\binom{|U|}{m}_q$ .

Hence

$$\sum_{\substack{U=U_1 \supset U_2 \supset \cdots \supset U_\ell = (0) \\ l \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell = \sum_{|U_2|=0}^{|U|-1} \binom{|U|}{|U_2|}_q (-1)^{|U_2|} q^{\binom{|U_2|}{2}}.$$

Recall the  $q$ -binomial theorem

$$\prod_{i=0}^{m-1} (1 + xq^i) = \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j}_q q^{\binom{j}{2}} x^j.$$

Set  $x = -1$ . Then the  $i = 0$  factor in the product is 0 and so we have

$$\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \binom{m}{j}_q (-1)^j q^{\binom{j}{2}} = (-1)^{m+1} q^{\binom{m}{2}}.$$

Thus

$$\sum_{\substack{U=U_1 \supset U_2 \supset \cdots \supset U_\ell = (0) \\ l \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell = (-1)^{|U|+1} q^{\binom{|U|}{2}}$$

as required.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $V \supseteq W$  be subspaces of  $\mathbf{F}_q$ . Then*

$$\sum_{V=V_1 \supset V_2 \supset \cdots \supset V_\ell = W} (-1)^\ell = (-1)^{|V/W|+1} q^{\binom{|V/W|}{2}}.$$

*Proof.* Since subspaces  $Y, V \supseteq Y \supseteq W$ , are in one-to-one correspondence with subspaces of  $V/W$  via the map  $Y \mapsto Y/W$ , this is immediate from the lemma.  $\square$

To prove the theorem, we observe that

$$\sum_{\substack{V_1 \supset V_2 \supset \cdots \supset V_\ell \supseteq (0) \\ l \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell t^{|V_1/V_\ell|+1} = \sum_{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{q}}^n \supseteq V_1 \supseteq V_2 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq V_\ell \supseteq (0)} t^{|V_1/V_\ell|+1} \sum_{\substack{V_1 \supset V_2 \supset \cdots \supset V_\ell \supseteq (0) \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell.$$

By Corollary 2, this is equal to

$$\sum_{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{q}}^n \supseteq V_1 \supseteq V_2 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq V_\ell \supseteq (0)} t^{|V_1/V_\ell|+1} (-1)^{|V_1/V_\ell|+1} q^{\binom{|V_1/V_\ell|}{2}}.$$

Set  $|v_\ell| = m$  and  $|V_1/V_\ell| = k$ . Then the number of possible  $V_\ell$  is  $\binom{n}{m}_q$  and, for fixed  $V_\ell$ , the number of possible  $V_1$  is the number of  $k$ -dimensional subspaces of  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{q}}^n/V_\ell$  which is  $\binom{n-m}{k}_q$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{V_1 \supset V_2 \supset \dots \supset V_\ell \supseteq (0) \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell t^{|V_1/V_\ell|+1} &= \sum_{\substack{0 < k, m \\ k+m \leq n}} \binom{n}{m}_q \binom{n-m}{k}_q (-t)^{k+1} q^{\binom{k}{2}} \\ &= (-t) \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m}_q \sum_{k=0}^{n-m} \binom{n-m}{k}_q (-t)^k q^{\binom{k}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Setting  $x = -t$  in the  $q$ -binomial theorem shows that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-m} \binom{n-m}{k}_q (-t)^k q^{\binom{k}{2}} = \prod_{i=0}^{n-m-1} (1 - tq^i).$$

Therefore

$$\sum_{\substack{V_1 \supset V_2 \supset \dots \supset V_\ell \supseteq (0) \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell t^{|V_1/V_\ell|+1} = (-t) \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m}_q \prod_{i=0}^{n-m-1} (1 - tq^i).$$

In view of Theorem 2, the theorem is proved.

Note that setting  $q = 1$  in the expression in Theorem 4 gives  $1 - t(2 - t)^n$ . By Theorem 3, this is  $\frac{1-t}{H(Q_n, t)}$ .

Recall (cf. [10]) that if  $A$  is a quadratic algebra it has a dual quadratic algebra, denoted  $A^!$  and that if  $A$  is a Koszul algebra the Hilbert series of  $A$  and  $A^!$  are related by

$$H(A, t)H(A^!, -t) = 1$$

Since by [7]  $A(\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{q}))$  is a Koszul algebra, we have the following

**Corollary 3.**

$$H(A(\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{q}))^!, t) = 1 + \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{m}_q (1 + tq) \dots (1 + tq^{n-m-1}).$$

## 6. THE HILBERT SERIES OF ALGEBRAS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPLETE LAYERED GRAPHS

We say that a layered graph  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  with  $V = \cup_{i=0}^n V_i$  is **complete** if for every  $i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ , and every  $v \in V_1, w \in V_{i-1}$ , there is a unique edge  $e$  with  $\mathbf{t}(e) = v, \mathbf{h}(e) = w$ . A complete layered graph is determined (up to isomorphism) by the cardinalities of the  $V_i$ . We denote the complete layered graph with  $V = \cup_{i=0}^n V_i, |V_i| = m_i$  for  $0 \leq i \leq n$ , by  $\mathbf{C}[m_n, m_{n-1}, \dots, m_1, m_0]$ . Note that the graph  $\mathbf{C}[m_n, m_{n-1}, \dots, m_1, 1]$  has a unique minimal vertex of level 0 and so Theorem 2 applies to  $A(\mathbf{C}[m_n, m_{n-1}, \dots, m_1, 1])$ . We will show:

**Theorem 5.**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1-t}{H(A(\mathbf{C}[m_n, m_{n-1}, \dots, m_1, 1], t))} &= \\ 1 - \sum_{k=0}^n \sum_{a=k}^n (-1)^k m_a (m_{a-1} - 1)(m_{a-2} - 1) \dots (m_{a-k+1} - 1) m_{a-k} t^{k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We first compute

$$\sum_{\substack{v_1 > v_2 > \dots > v_\ell \geq \emptyset \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1}.$$

The coefficient of  $t^{k+1}$  in the sum is

$$\sum_{\substack{v_1 > v_2 > \dots > v_\ell \geq * \\ \ell \geq 1, |v_1| - |v_\ell| = k}} (-1)^\ell = \sum_{|v_1|=k}^n \sum_{\substack{v_1 > \dots > v_\ell \\ |v_1| - |v_\ell| = k}} (-1)^\ell.$$

Note that the number of chains  $v_1 > \dots > v_\ell$  with  $|v_i| = a_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq \ell$  is  $m_{a_1} m_{a_2} \dots m_{a_\ell}$ . Then, writing  $k = |v_1| - |v_\ell|$  and  $a_1 = a$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{v_1 > v_2 > \dots > v_\ell \geq * \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^\ell t^{|v_1| - |v_\ell| + 1} &= \sum_{k=0}^n \left( \sum_{\substack{v_1 > \dots > v_\ell \geq * \\ \ell \geq 1, |v_1| - |v_\ell| = k}} (-1)^\ell \right) t^{k+1} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \left( \sum_{\substack{a_1 > \dots > a_{\ell-1} > a_{1-k} \geq 0 \\ \ell \geq 1}} (-1)^l m_{a_1} m_{a_2} \dots m_{a_{\ell-1}} m_{a_{1-k}} \right) t^{k+1} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \left( \sum_{a=k}^n m_a (1 - m_{a-1}) \dots (1 - m_{a-k+1}) m_{a-k} \right) t^{k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

The theorem now follows from Theorem 2.  $\square$

This result applies, in particular, to the case  $m_0 = m_1 = \dots = m_n = 1$ . The resulting algebra  $A(\mathbf{C}[1, \dots, 1])$  has  $n$  generators and no relations. Theorem 5 shows that

$$\frac{1-t}{H(A(\mathbf{C}[1, \dots, 1]), t)} = 1 - \sum_{a=0}^n t + \sum_{a=1}^n t^2 = (1-t)(1-nt).$$

Thus  $H(A(\mathbf{C}[1, \dots, 1]), t) = \frac{1}{1-nt}$  and we have recovered the well-known expression for the Hilbert series of the free associative algebra on  $n$  generators.

Since by [7] the algebras associated to complete directed graphs are Koszul algebras, we have the following

**Corollary 4.**

$$H(A(\mathbf{C}[m_n, m_{n-1}, \dots, m_1, 1])^!, t) =$$

$$1 + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{a=k}^n m_a (m_{a-1} - 1) (m_{a-2} - 1) \dots (m_{a-k+1} - 1) t^k.$$

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